



**THE STATE BAR OF CALIFORNIA
COMMITTEE OF BAR EXAMINERS/OFFICE OF ADMISSIONS**

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**Information Regarding Incidents at the
Santa Clara Convention Center and the
Sacramento Convention Center and the
Grading of the July 2011 California Bar Examination**

There were two major incidents that occurred in connection with administration of the July 2011 California Bar Examination that affected large groups of applicants. At 11:41 a.m., during the morning session at the Santa Clara Convention Center on Wednesday, July 27, 2011, a fire alarm sounded. In accordance with directions received from the facility's loudspeakers, evacuation at the test center began. Within a minute, however, facility management advised Office of Admissions staff that it was a false alarm. Immediately following the receipt of such information, announcements were made to the applicants advising them to retake their seats and that the session would continue. The session was reconvened, timing of the session continued and applicants were given an additional four (4) minutes to complete that session of the examination.

During administration of the examination at the Sacramento Convention Center during the Tuesday and Wednesday, July 26 and 27, 2011, sessions, intermittent loud noises were heard from the space next to the examination room, which was occupied by a youth group using loudspeakers. State Bar management was consulted and a decision was made to reconfigure the examination testing room so that applicants would be seated as far away from the space as possible. Relocation of the testing area required moving all the tables, chairs and electrical outlets, which took all night to accomplish. By Thursday morning, the work had been completed, applicants continued taking the examination and completed it as scheduled.

These incidents were reported to the Committee of Bar Examiners (Committee) after administration of the examination. In response, the Committee has directed its measurement consultant to perform psychometric studies on whether the incidents adversely impacted applicants' performance at these test centers during the affected sessions of the examination. Information regarding these studies and whether additional points were or were not added to applicants' scores as a result will be made available on the State Bar's website at the time the results are made available to the applicants who took the examination, which is at 6:00 p.m., Friday, November 18, 2011.

While the Committee certainly regrets that these incidents occurred, the fact that they did was beyond its control. Applicants should be assured that the Committee will take the appropriate steps necessary to ensure all applicants are treated fairly, while at the same time not give one group of applicants an unwarranted advantage over any other.